

to the settlement of the frontier. He developed his farm as the years went by and continued to reside thereon until his eightieth year, when he retired and removed to Le Roy, Minnesota- He lived to the advanced age of eighty-five years.

Walter B. Jarred, a resident of Howard county for sixty-five years, pursued his education in one of the old-time log schoolhouses which were features of pioneer life. The curriculum was not extensive, but he thoroughly mastered the branches of learning therein taught and thus laid the foundation for his success in the business world. His training at farm labor was not meager and at twenty-two years of age he purchased his present home farm and for nine years thereafter acted as his own housekeeper while tilling the fields. While he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, hard times came on and money was scarce, so he sold eighty acres of the original tract. He worked for fifty cents per day to pay the interest on the mortgage on the other eighty acres. Success ultimately crowns persistent and earnest effort when guided by sound judgment, and so it proved in the case of Mr. Jarred, who for many years has been accounted one of the men of affluence in Chester township.

In 1887 Mr. Jarred was united in marriage to Miss Josie Barnum, of Clayton county, Iowa. They became parents of two sons: Elias, who assists his father in the operation of the home farm; and Howard, a resident of Austin, Minnesota. The wife and mother passed away in 1916 and the son, Elias Jarred, with his wife, now resides with the father upon the home farm and looks after his comfort.

In politics Mr. Jarred is a republican who has long voted the party ticket but has never been an office seeker. There is no story that has important bearing upon the history of Howard county with which Mr. Jarred is not familiar. He has witnessed practically the entire growth and development of this section and his reminiscences of the early days are most interesting, indicating what a marked change has been brought about through time and the effective labors of man.

J. F. BIWER.

When Howard county was first being settled by a class of substantial men who wished to utilize her natural resources and make her agricultural opportunities the source of their success, the Biwer family was established in this section of the state and J. F. Biwer, whose name introduces this review, is now a substantial farmer of Howard township, living on section 36. He was born in this county February 19, 1873, and is a son of John and Margaret (Clear) Biwer, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to the United States during infancy with their respective parents and both families settled near Madison, Wisconsin, where John Biwer and Margaret Clear were reared to manhood and womanhood. While residing in that state the father enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of the Third Wisconsin Cavalry, with which he was on active duty throughout the entire period of hostilities between the north and the south. After three years service he reenlisted as a veteran and participated in many hotly contested engagements on the battlefields of the south. Soon after the close of the war he was married and, removing westward to Iowa, purchased a farm in Howard township, Howard county, about one mile from Elma. He took up his abode upon this place and there resided for a number of years, after which he removed to a farm on section 35 of the same township, having previously purchased that property. While the family were living there, the mother and a daughter were killed by lightning on the 18th of July, 1898, the lightning striking the house and running down the chimney into the cellar, where the family had congregated, fearing a cyclone. Following the death of his wife Mr. Biwer retired from active business and established his home in Elma, where he lived for a number of years but afterward went to the Soldiers' Home, where he is now living.

Arriving in Iowa in pioneer times, the experiences of the family were such as come to those who settle upon the frontier. Hardships and privations fell to their lot,